

Noise induced hearing loss and pneumatic percussive tools – call for additional research

The Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (IIAC) provides advice to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in Great Britain and the Department for Social Development in Northern Ireland about the Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB) Scheme – the scheme by which employed earners in the UK receive state compensation for industrial accidents or certain scheduled occupational diseases (prescribed diseases).

In considering which diseases it should recommend be added to the list of prescribed diseases, IIAC relies primarily on high quality, peer-reviewed scientific research published in respected international journals. The Council does not have its own research budget to carry out primary research.

IIAC has been considering PD A10 (noise-induced hearing loss) and work involving the use of pneumatic percussive tools used on concrete or roads (e.g. jack hammers or road breakers). However, the Council has found only limited evidence that would enable prescription for this exposure to be considered for PD A10.

IIAC is asking the scientific research community to undertake research to provide good quality noise exposure data (hygiene data), ideally averaged over an 8hr working day in relation to particular jobs or working practices (sound level meter dB(A) Leq measurements, exposure duration and 8hr equivalent noise exposures, Lepd, or directly obtained from personal dosimeters) of workers using pneumatic percussive tools on concrete or roads.

Any researchers interested in undertaking this research and wishing to discuss IIAC's specific needs and queries should contact:

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